



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Mulherin, Hon. TS

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.13 pm): I rise in support of the motion, and it is with great honour and pleasure that I do so. Tim Mulherin was a giant of his beliefs and his values; indeed, he was a giant of his community. He was born and raised there, and I know from the times that I visited Mackay the high regard his community had for him.

When Tim Mulherin entered the parliament in 1995, his value to his side of politics quickly became evident. His service on committees was exemplary, but it was as minister for primary industries and later agriculture where I think he truly earned the respect of people of all political persuasions. He served in that role for over half a decade. As someone who comes from an agricultural background, I know how much he was respected. In many ways, he followed a similar path to the Premier's father, Henry, who was very much held in the same level of regard by people regardless of their political beliefs.

My time and knowledge of the late Tim Mulherin started in 2012 when I was elected to this place. Tim was the shadow minister for the following—state development, infrastructure, planning, racing, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, science, IT, innovation but, most importantly, local government. It was there that I had to square off against Tim Mulherin and it was at estimates that I did feel the wrath, Premier. What you did not know is the conversation that happened before that estimates. My estimates was on the last day and the last afternoon. The shadow minister approached me and said, 'Son, it's very late and no-one cares what you have to say, so let's just play nicely and it will all be okay.' It was with that comfort that I sat down, and I will let members read the transcript. One of us played nicely. It was a great lesson.

I want to talk about Tim's time after public life. The mark of the man is that he kept in contact with me, albeit sporadically. He was never one to shy away from giving me observations. In the same way that the Premier read from a text message, I will read from a text message that Tim sent me on 25 May. I think it says so much about him as an individual. He said, 'At the moment it's been one step forward and two back. With a bit of luck I'll get a clear shot at treatment and turn the tables around in my favour.' That was barely three months from his passing and he was still the ultimate optimist, the ultimate man of decency.

I say to his family in the gallery—particularly to Erin and the boys, Declan, Liam and Rory—that today is a day where we will reflect on your father's parliamentary service, and for good reason because it was lengthy, distinguished and honourable. However, please know that more important than his contribution in this House is the fact that he left this place with the same level of respect and dignity that he entered it with. He left it with his community in a better place and he left it with universal respect. The fact that we have a full House today—with people lining up to speak about his contribution as a parliamentarian, as a man of great principles and as someone who was willing to stand up for his beliefs and do so with class—shows what a valued member of society he is and what a wonderful member of your family he is. Vale Tim Mulherin.